



File Code: 1950

Date: August 07, 2013

Route To:

Subject: Temporary Fire Restrictions in the Moderate Hazard Area

To: Project Files

From: Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor

The moderate hazard area of the Stanislaus National Forest is located in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties, California. The Forest's Fire Management Plan (Appendix A, Wildland Fire Management Program Implementation) and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5110.4 provide authority and guidance on implementing actions that reduce the risk of certain ignition sources during periods of high fire risk.

Criteria for activating prohibitions in moderate hazard areas through Forest Orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. The Forest currently meets the criteria for activation of restrictions in the Moderate hazard area using the Mt. Elizabeth weather station as the representative site. Indices that can trigger restrictions are: Burning Index is 80 or greater; dead fuel moistures for thousand-hour time lag fuels are less than 13%; and, Energy Release Component greater than 82 for three consecutive days. Current conditions reflect a Burning Index ranging in the high 80s and low 90s, calculated thousand-hour fuel moisture of 6% with an Energy Release Component above 88 for the last week. Combinations of these data that are above threshold indicate a need for restricting potential fire-causing activities of persons using the moderate hazard areas.

In response to the situation described above, the Forest Service will issue a temporary Forest Order prohibiting the following activities in the Moderate hazard area:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire;
2. Smoking, except with an enclosed vehicle or building, within exempted Developed Recreation Sites, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material;
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame; or,
4. Using an explosive.

Scoping determined that anticipated effects of this proposed action would be administrative in nature. Minimal ground disturbance will occur, and no other additional impact on any natural resources will occur with the implementation of this proposed action. The public notification of these restrictions occurred via a press announcement published by the local newspapers.



The Forest Service will install signs along roads entering the Moderate Hazard Area to alert the public to these fire restrictions.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to administrative appeal. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with these temporary restrictions and the procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 215.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

For further information regarding this decision, contact: Chris Schow, Fire Management Officer, Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. (209) 532-3671.

cc: Heidi Rieck, Chris Schow

ORDER NUMBER STF 2013-06
Temporary Fire Restrictions in the Moderate Hazard Area
Stanislaus National Forest

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Moderate Hazard Area of the Stanislaus National Forest, as shown on Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B. This Order is effective from August 08, 2013, through the end of the official 2013 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, within the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).
4. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the Moderate Hazard Area are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the Moderate Hazard Area may use a campfire or stove fire at their recreation residence.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for an individual or \$10,000.00 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571 and 3581.

Done at Sonora California, this 07, day of August, 2013.

/s/ Susan Skalski

SUSAN SKALSKI
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest

Stanislaus National Forest
FOREST ORDER STF-2013-06

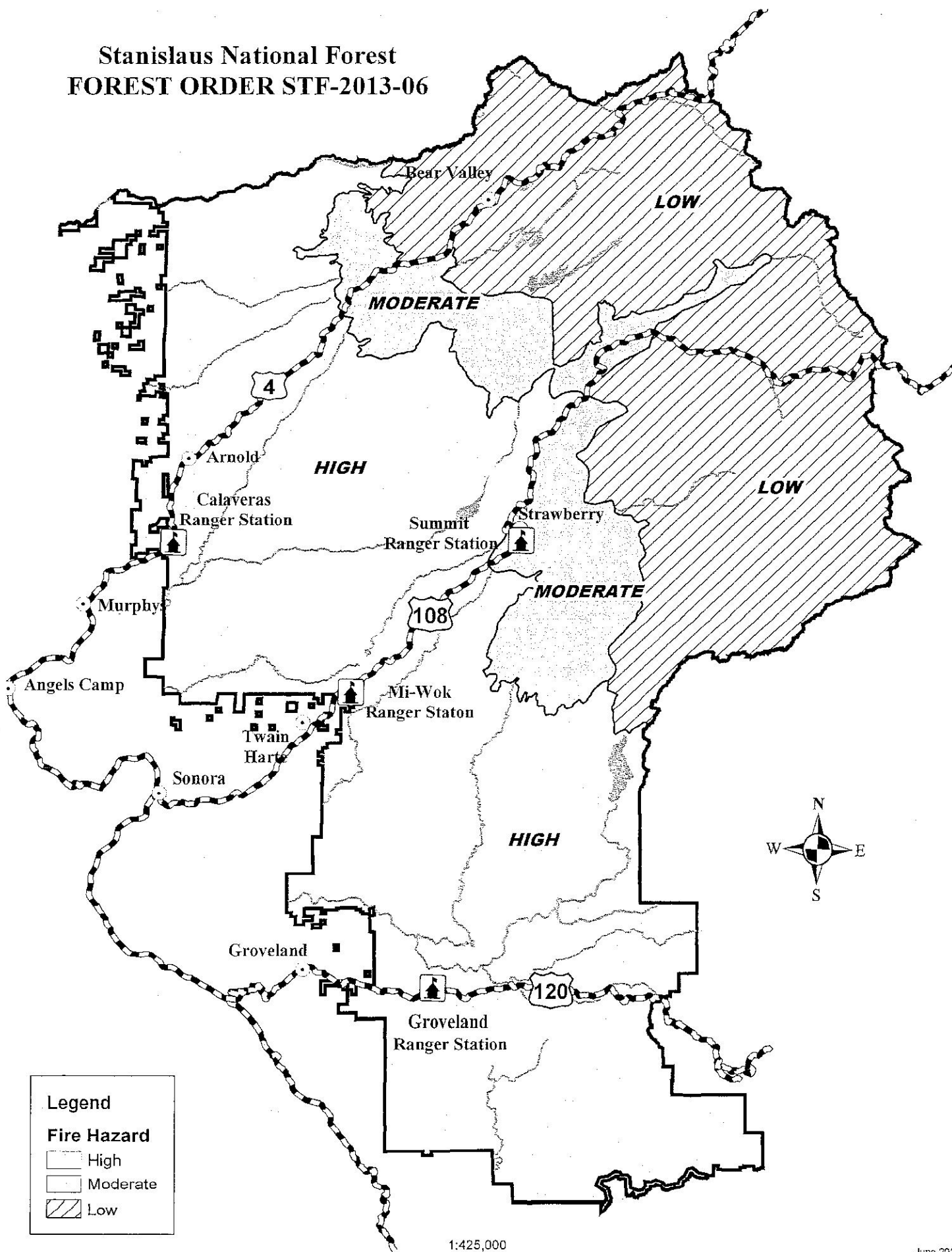


EXHIBIT B: MODERATE HAZARD AREA DESCRIPTION

Forest Order STF 2013-06

Stanislaus National Forest

The moderate hazard area is located in the middle elevation zone of the Stanislaus National Forest. The eastern and western boundaries of this zone are as follows:

Eastern Boundary:

Stanislaus National Forest lands southwest of a line starting from the north edge of Salt Springs Reservoir and following the edge of the Mokelumne Wilderness east to section 5 (T7N R17E), to Mattley trail in the northeast quarter of section 8 (T7N R17E) continuing south to road 7N16, going southeast to Cabbage Patch, then east on Highway 4 to the 4WD road into Sand Flat Campground, continuing southwest down the Stanislaus River to Highland Creek to the trailhead to Clover Meadow, continuing east on the trail to the Emigrant Wilderness boundary line then south on the Emigrant Wilderness boundary to Iceberg Meadow, continuing southwest through section 35, 34 (T7N R20E), 4, 5, 7, 12 (T6N R20E), 13, 14, 22 (T6N R19E), crossing State Highway 108 west of Boulder Flat, continuing south then southwest to Double Dome Rock, through sections 28, 32, 33 (T5N R19E), crossing Niagara Creek, continuing south along road 6N24 then onto State Highway 108 through section 6 (T5N R19E) along Mill Creek turning southeast through sections 7, 8 (T5N R19E) turning southwest through the northeast corner of section 17 (T5N R19E) through its southwest corner into the southeast corner of section 18 (T5N R19E) continuing through the northwest corner of section 19 (T5N R19E), and to Bull Run Rock in section 25 (T5N R19E), then turning southeast to the section line of 31, 36 (T5N R18E), then south along the section line to Pinecrest Peak, continuing east below Pinecrest Peak to the Emigrant Wilderness Boundary, then south along the Emigrant Wilderness Boundary to the Yosemite National Park boundary.

Western Boundary:

Stanislaus National Forest lands northeast of a line starting from the south shore of Salt Springs Reservoir and following the section line south between sections 2 and 3 (T8N R16E) to road 7N05, continuing south to road 7N50, continuing south to road 7N23, continuing south across State Highway 4 and continuing east to the Calaveras/Tuolumne County line, continuing south to Little Rattlesnake Creek and continuing east to road 5N14, continuing east to road 6N05 north to Shoofly Creek, continuing east to the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River, continuing north to the dam at Donnel Lake then continuing south to road 5N92, continuing south to State Highway 108, continuing south the Summit/Mi-wok Ranger District boundary, continuing east to road 4N33, continuing south to road 3N01, continuing southeast to the Emigrant Wilderness boundary, continuing southeast to the Yosemite National Park boundary

FOREST ORDER, STF 2013-06
STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST

EXHIBIT C -- Developed Recreation Sites within the Moderate Fire Hazard Area

SUMMIT RANGER DISTRICT

Cottonwood Picnic Area
Clark Fork Campground
Donnell Vista Picnic Area
Fence Creek Campground
Meadowview Campground
Mill Creek Campground
Niagara Creek Campground
Pioneer Trail Group Campground
Pinecrest Campground
Pinecrest Lake Picnic Area
Sand Flat Campground

CALAVERAS RANGER DISTRICT

Big Meadow Campground